

BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION AND TRAINING CALIFORNIA

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Photo: Seaberry Nachbar/ONMS

CA B-WET Program Increases Student Knowledge and Enjoyment in Learning about the Environment

The California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program completed a one-year evaluation of its environmental education projects and found that B-WET activities in 2006-2007 produced statistically significant increases in students' knowledge about local watersheds and marine sanctuaries and in students' enjoyment in learning about the ocean and protecting the ocean. The study also showed an increase in students' and teachers' ability to identify the ways watersheds and the ocean become polluted and ways to prevent their pollution.



Photo: Lisa Emanuelson/ONMS

Underserved Communities Targeted for Meaningful Watershed Experiences

In 2008, the California B-WET Program provided 35 small grants totaling \$1,830,000 to community partners and underserved schools to promote environmentally informed citizens and education partnerships. More than 26,000 students and 5,000 teachers have been educated about marine sanctuaries, the marine and coastal environment, and watersheds through targeted, hands-on activities that take students and teachers out into the environment.



Photo: Lisa Emanuelson/ONMS

Schools Take Pledge to Become Ocean Guardians

Recognizing that stewardship is built in the community, the California B-WET Program launched an exciting new educational effort titled Ocean Guardian Schools, a program that encourages whole schools to take the pledge of protecting our oceans. Students are encouraged to submit a proposal and budget for a school- or community-based conservation project. If accepted, the school receives funds for implementing a unique and innovative marine or environment related stewardship project. Once successfully implemented for two years, the school will receive a plaque identifying their school as an Ocean Guardian School.



Photo: Seaberry Nachbar/ONMS

CA B-WET Hosts First Program Conference

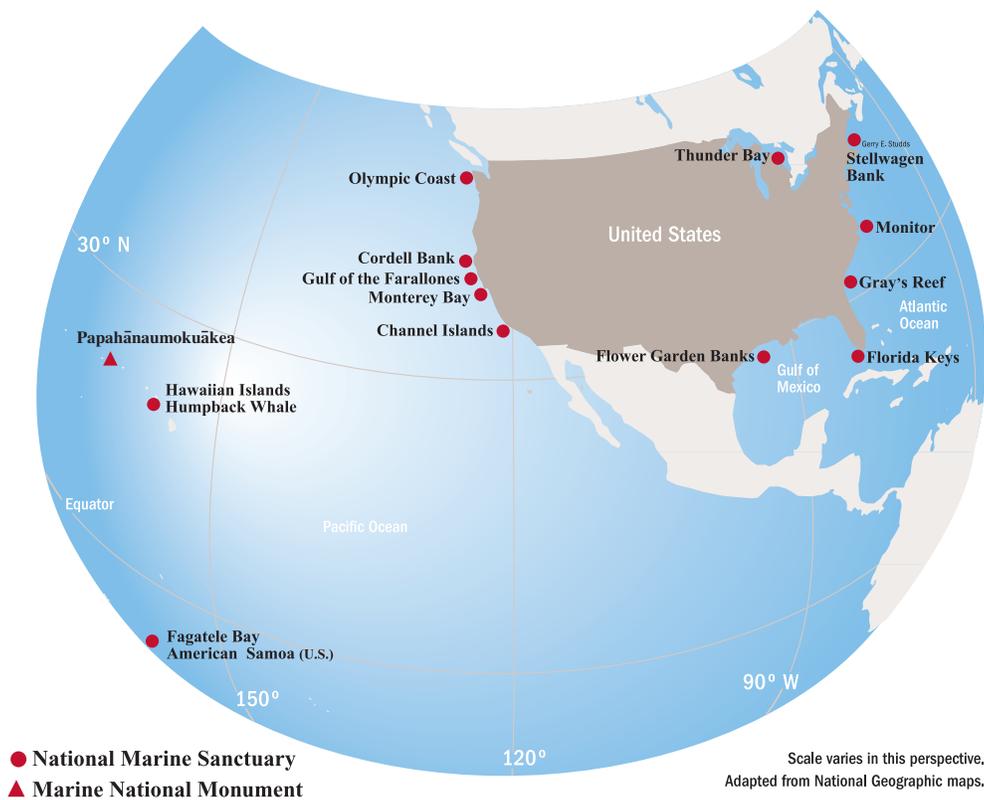
The California B-WET Program hosted its first bi-annual conference in Monterey, Calif., bringing together B-WET grant recipients and environmental educators. More than 75 grant recipients and constituents participated in an evening of sharing and learning from one another about best practices and lessons learned. A daylong workshop the following day introduced participants to current research, NOAA resources, and education evaluation.

NOAA B-WET Expands

Following on the tremendous success of the B-WET programs in California, the Chesapeake Bay area and Hawaii, the NOAA B-WET program received funds to expand to three new regions: the Pacific Northwest, Gulf of Mexico and New England. Fifteen proposals were funded in these new regions that bring students and teachers out into the environment in a meaningful way.

Workshops Build Grant Recipients Knowledge and Strategies

More than eight workshops were provided for free to CA B-WET grant recipients that helped to build their knowledge on topics of evaluation and multicultural education strategies. Evaluation workshops were provided to grant recipients to help them better evaluate their programs and to provide them the resources and tools needed to effectively do so. Workshops focused on adapting programs to meet the needs of a multicultural audience were provided to grant recipients, as well.



To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov

